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Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

# Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

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## Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action

## Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

**Addendum**

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 51, 51 *ter*, 52 and 53 *bis* of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV)) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 51 was amended to read:

"Violence against women and girls is a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated";

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(b) Paragraph 51 *ter* was amended to read:

"Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and, as such, should be strengthened. The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermine efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being are also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the responsibilities for the household and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. This imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education, and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, in both public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities";

(c) Paragraph 52 was amended to read:

"Strong national machineries for the advancement of women and promotion of gender equality require political commitment at the highest level and all necessary human and financial resources to initiate, recommend and facilitate the development, adoption and monitoring of policies, legislation, programmes and capacity-building for the empowerment of women and to act as catalysts for open public dialogue on gender equality as a societal goal. This would enable them to promote the advancement of women and mainstream a gender perspective in policies and programmes in all areas, to play an advocacy role and to ensure equal access to all institutions and resources, as well as enhanced capacity-building for women in all sectors. Reforms to meet the challenges of the changing world are essential to ensuring women's equal access to institutions and organizations. Institutional and conceptual changes are a strategic and important aspect of creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the Platform for Action";

(d) Paragraph 53 *bis* was amended to read:

"Girls and women of all ages with any form of disability are generally among the more vulnerable and marginalized members of society. There is therefore a need to take into account and address their concerns in all policy-making and programming. Special measures are needed at all levels to integrate them into the mainstream of development."